are also there. About 20 big business houses are minting money like anything. They are exploiting the whole country. (*Time bell*) Your export policy is decided in their favour, your import policy is decided in their favour, and the peasantry is denied remunerative prices. Under the circumstances, how would our country get the benefit, how our population would come out of this poverty line?

So, Sir, I thank you for the time you have given me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Time taken, not given.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: You did not ring the bell. That is why I thought you conceded the time. Otherwise, I would have sat down earlier. Thank you, Sir.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Recognition of newly declared state of Palestine

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir...

The House will be happy to know that Government have decided to accord full recognition to the newly declared State of Palestine. The denial to the Palestinians of their just rights and the illegal occupation of their homeland have been strongly condemned by successive Parliaments. All shades of public and political opinion in India have been united in expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legitimate aspirations.

The establishment of an independent Palestinian State has been our cherished and singleminded objective all these years. We share the happiness of the Palestinian people on this auspicious day. We are conscious that it is not the end of the process. It is nevertheless an important milestone on the path to meeting the legitimate aspirations of Palestinians within and outside the occupied territories. We wish the Palestinians all success in the task of achieving the logical culmination of this declaration--the restoration of Palestinian land and the assertion of Palestinian sovereignty.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, विदेश मंत्री जी ने जो यह घोषणा की यह अत्यन्त ही प्रसन्नता की बात है। हमारे देश की लगभग तमाम राजनीतिक पार्टियां बराबर से फिलिस्तीन की आजादी के आंदोलन का समर्थन करती रही हैं । और भारत सरकार भी उसका समर्थन करती रही है । अभी जो इन्होंने यह घोषणा की कि उनका अपना राज्य हो गया है और इसको मान्यता हमारी सरकार ने दे दी है हम इसका पूरा स्वागत करते हैं और विदेश मंत्री जी को बधाई देते हैं।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): The whole House welcomes it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I support Mr. Dipen Ghosh, that instead of asking clarifications, if the whole House could join in welcoming it, that would be all right.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is a complete consensus on this. I do not think there is any need for any clarifications. If you wish I can come back on another occasion but now it will be very good if we just hail this decision and support it all round.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I think that is what I am doing.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Nobody is against it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): That is why I said that it will save time, if all can join the Minister and we can take up other business.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : जैसा विदेश मंत्री जी ने कहा यह एक पहला कदम है। अब उनको वह जमीन मिल जाए जिस पर इसरायल ने कब्जा कर रखा है। इसके लिए मुझे पूरा विश्वास है हमारे विदेश मंत्री और भारत सरकार इसके लिए पूरी कोशिश करेंगे। मैं यह भी समझता हूं कि अभी विश्व में रेगन और गोर्बाचोव समझौता वार्ता के कारण जो एक नयी परिस्थिति उत्पन्न हो गयी है उसमें यह सम्भव हो सकेगा कि फिलिस्तीनी लोग अपनी जमीन पर कब्जा पाकर अपनी जमीन पर स्वतंत्र सरकार कायम कर सकेंगे। मैं जानता हूं इजराइल के लोग बहुत जिद्दी हैं। अभी भी अपने चुनाव में उन्होंने इसको मुद्दा बना कर चुनाव लड़ा और दक्षिणी पंथी ताकतों ने इसका इस्तेमाल किया है, मैं इस बात से अवगत हूं। लेकिन मैं यह भी जानता हूं कि एक दो दिन के बाद गोर्बाचोव यहां आ रहे हैं। हमारी सरकार इस संबंध में उनसे भी बातचीत करे। जो सेक्योरिटी कौंसिल के पांच संस्थापक स्थायी सदस्य हैं उन राष्ट्रों से भी बातचीत की जाए। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री चीन जाने वाले हैं उनसे भी इस बारे में बात करें। हमारा सम्बन्ध युनिटेड स्टेट्स आफ अमेरिका से भी अच्छा है। कितना अच्छा है वह भी इसको परख कर जांच कर लें। हम इसके लिए कोशिश करें। ब्रिटेन से भी हमारा पुराना रिश्ता है। फ्रांस से भी हमारा अच्छा संबंध है उन सबसे हम बात करें। हमारे कहने का मतलब यह है कि हम चारों तरफ इस प्रयास को सफल करने के लिए कोशिश करें। एक बार फिर मैं अपनी प्रसन्नता जाहिर करता हूं और आशा करता हूं कि हमारे फिलिस्तीन के मित्र आगे बढ़ कर इसमें सफल होंगे।

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Sir, on behalf of my party I welcome the statement made by my friend, Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. I support the step taken by the Government in according recognition to the Palestine State. The story of Palestinians, Sir, has been a story of struggle and sacrifice and they have gone through great agony. They have been subjected to terror and violence. Inspite of all the obstacles, force and tremendous pressure brought on them militarily and otherwise by the Government of Israel they have shown remarkable courage. One thing which kept their morale high was, and has been, their complete dedication to their rights and a firm resolve to have their own homeland. The Government of Israel has flouted the Resolution of the United Nations. They have not withdrawn their forces of occupation from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

The recognition of the Palestine State is an important step. It gives recognition, legal recognition. But this should be followed up by other steps. In this context, the Government of India should take the initiative in calling an international conference on Palestine. There is the Resolution of the United Nations. We have been espousing the cause of the coloured people in South Africa. We have been espousing the cause of the Palestinians in the Middle East. Therefore, it in the fitness of things that we take the initiative in this matter. If the Middle-East is to be free from tension, conflict, violence and terrorism, the international community should jointly thik of solving the problem. It should not be left only to the Arabs, the Arab countries.

Incidentally, may I point out another thing? I think, I am not going out of the context. On this Occasion we should also remember the plight of the Tibetans. The Tibetan people have suffered for a long number of years. I am not going into the question of sovereignty. But we should be equally concerned about their rights, the rights of the Tibetans. Tibet is in our neighbourhood. I think, the Government of India, in their own interest and in the interest of the international community, should take steps to see that Tibet is established as a zone of peace where the six million Tibetans could enjoy human rights and enjoy autonomy.

Once again, Sir, I whole heartedly support the statement of my friend. We wish the Palestinians all success in their efforts to realise their dream of establishing an

independent, sovereign, Palestine State in the Middle-East.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, extend to the Government of India our gratitude for having taken prompt action in recognising the State of Palestine. Ours is the third country to recognise the Palestine State. I also extend, through you, Sir, our good wishes to the new State of Palestine and Mr. Yasser Arafat. As the Prime Minister's representative, I had an occasion to go to Tripoli, in Libya, to attend a Palestine conference and on 15th of June this year I had the occasion to meet Shri Yasser Arafat privately. Shri Yasser Arafat looks to India as a big brother and told me in plain words that India's consistent policy towards Palestine has been a cause of inspiration and guidance to them.

We wish him all luck and I congratulate Shri Narasimha Rao and our Rajivji for having taken the initiative in recognising the Palestine State. We are among the first three countries in the world to do that.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly support on behalf of my party the historic step taken by the Government of India in according recognition to independent Palestine State. We all know that independent Palestine has to be made a reality, following a course which is strewn with so many difficulties. But in this matter the Government of India has always been in constant touch with the Palestine Liberation Organisation which has spearhead this setting-up of independent Palestine. Not only Israel is standing in the way of the fulfilment of the aspirations of the palestinians, the role of the United States of America as the principal protector of Israeli aggression has to be taken into account. My request to our Government would be and I would specially request the External Affairs Minister to consider the best way to try to persuade the United States of America to give up its intransigent position till this period, particularly after the Palestinian National Council endorsed 212 resolutions of the United Nations which recognised the existence of Israel State. The President-elect of the United States of America said, if that was done that was a good thing. Then, some steps were to be taken so that this good thing is followed up by good action on the part of the United States of America. It is needless to say that non-aligned opinion will be harnessed in support of the Palestinian peoples' independence struggle, but on these issues further assertion from the side of the External Affairs Ministry would be very welcome.

This would encourage the people of Palestine, whether inside the Israel territory or outside.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Sir, I join the Minister of External Affairs and the entire House in hailing the decision of the Government of India for according recognition to the newly announced State of Palestine. Sir, on this occasion I also express on behalf of my party and also on behalf of all our solidarity with the people of Palestine who have fought heroically against the aggressive policies of Israel. We cannot also afford to forget the tragic and repressive measures which have been let loose by the Israeli rulers during the past years in the occupied areas of Palestine. Sir, it is a welcome move on the part of the Government of India for according a recognition and also recognition of the fact, I quote, "We are conscious that it is not the end of the process but the beginning of the process." Here the statement is very significant. I want to be assured by the Government on this occasion that as the Government itself feels that it is just beginning of a new area of activity, the Government will also bear in mind the hostile attitude which has been displayed and exhibited by the United States of America and the deep-rooted alliance between the United States of America and the Israeli rulers. They have got their own global plans to have tension in the entire Middle East area. It is in the interest of India, it is in

[Shri Chitta Basu]

the interest of the non-aligned countries, it is in the interest of peace that the problem of the Middle East area be solved. In the case, the Palestine problems holds the key. Therefore I appeal to the hon. Minister of External Affairs that having this perspective in view, we should not rest simply by according recognition, but we have other responsibilities also. I hope the Government is fully conscious of the responsibility cast upon it with the announcement of recognition of the newly liberated State of Palestine.

I wish the people of Palestine a happy future.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: On behalf of All-India Anna DMK, I extend our full co-operation and support for the recognition by our Government of the newly declared Palestinian State.

Sir, the people of Palestine have fought for their right of freedom for many years under the militant leadership of Yasser Arafat. Yasser Arafat has restlessly and selflessly served and sacrificed for his homeland. Whenever he visited our country, he expressed his affection and cordiality with our Government. He used to say about our late Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, that she was his mother. To that extent he was emotional and cordial with our country. In this context, I would like to congratulate Yasser Arafat for his selfless service to the people.

Wherever people fight for their rights and freedom it is the bounden duty of this Government to extend its moral support. Already we have recognised PLO and quite in consonance with that step, now we have recognised the State of Palestine. As I mentioned earlier, wherever we see people fighting for their rights and freedom, we should extend our support. I do not know why we are so unkind and adverse to the Tamil people who are fighting for their rights and freedom in Sri Lanka. (*Interruptions*) when I mention the Tamils in Sri Lanka, the next moment you are agitated. Why is it so? Why are you adopting two policies, I am asking? It is not a controversy. I fully endorse the views of the hon. Minister. There is no difference of opinion. Hundred per cent I endorse this statement. At the same time, I would like to know whether this policy has been adhered to properly in the case of Tamils. This is the clarification I want from the hon. Minister.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am glad, and for that matter my party is glad, that the Government of India has decided to accord full recognition to the newly declared State of Palestine. In fact, in this decision, the aspirations of the people of our country have found expression. I hope, as the honourable Minister has stated, that this is not the end of the process but the beginning of the process, and the Government of India will stand by the people of Palestine, will stand by the newly declared State of Palestine in their struggle for the restoration of the Palestinian land and assertion of their sovereignty.

Sir, this is not the time to ask for any clarification, nor is this the time to bring in other questions, as some of our colleagues have sought to do. But, at least I will be happy if the honourable Minister shares the information with us, if he is in possession of it, as to which other countries have taken such a decision to accord full recognition to the newly declared State of Palestine.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं विदेश मंत्री, प्रधान मंत्री जी और भारत सरकार को जो उन्होंने इस सदन में फिलिस्तीन की मान्यता का प्रश्न इस सदन में प्रस्तुत किया है उस पर धन्यवाद देना हूं। बधाई देना चाहता हूं। यूं तो उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय आज सुबह नजमा हैपतुल्ला जी ने विशेष महत्व के प्रारा यह मामला उठाया था। तब भी सारे सदन की भावनाएं उनके साथ जुड़ी हुई थी और इस वक्त सारा सदन एकमत है। इस मान्यता के मामले में मैं भी भारत सरकार को और प्रधान मंत्री को बधाई देना चाहता हूं और जैसा कि विदेश मंत्री जी ने कहा कि यह पहला कदम है, मैं आशा करता हूं कि भविष्य में जो भी कुछ और कदम होंगे वे भी अच्छे कदम होंगे जिनसे कि भारत का मान दुनिया में

ऊंचा उठेगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं उनको बधाई देना चाहता हूं।

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Asom Gana Parishad, I welcome the decision of the Government to accord recognition to the newly born State of Palestine, and I congratulate the Palestinian people. I hope the Government of India, as it has recognized it, cannot eschew the responsibility of seeing through the process of the Palestinians getting full, sovereign, Statehood. Thank you.

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, नवघोषित फिलिस्तीन को मान्यता देकर भारत के परराष्ट्र मंत्री ने भारत के गौरवशाली इतिहास में एक कदम और आगे बढ़ाया है। मुझे बहुत ही प्रसन्नता है। मैं एक और आशा कर रहा हूं। दलाई लामा भारत के धर्मशाला नगर में बैठे हुए हैं और 60 लाख तिब्बती वर्षों से पीड़ा में कहराते हुए दिखाई दे रहे है। इनका सीधा संबंध जुड़ा हुआ है, जमीन का संबंध जुड़ा हुआ है, रक्त का संबंध जुड़ा हुआ है, भावना का संबंध जुड़ा हुआ है, संस्कृति का संबंध जुड़ा हुआ है। मैं आशा करता हूं कि परराष्ट्र मंत्री वह दिन बहुत लम्बा नहीं करेंगे जब हमें तिब्बत की आजादी की भी घोषणा इसी सदन में सुनने को मिलेगी।

समाचार पत्रों में मान्यवर पढ़ा है कि गोर्बाचोव दिल्ली में आ रहे हैं और भारतीय प्रधान मंत्री शीघ्र ही चीन जा रहे हैं। यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है मुझे आशा है कि भारत सरकार इस प्रश्न की उपेक्षा नहीं करेगी और सम्पूर्ण भारत का इसी प्रकार से फिर एक बार गौरव बढ़ाने के लिए दलाई लामा को तिब्बत में स्थापित करने में और उनकी स्वतंत्रता को उन्हें दिलाने में अवश्य पहल करेगी। धन्यवाद।

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I am grateful to the honourable Members for the solid support which I got from all sections of the House. This is indeed a historic occasion for our friends, the Palestinian people, and all of us who have been with them throughout.

Sir, the number of countries which have already given recognition, as of 10 or 11 a.m. today, is 18. We would have been, maybe, the second if not the first. Because we received the news in the night and because I wanted to make the statement in Parliament, we had to wait and, within this time, some other countries have recognized it. It is not a race. The point is, there is a fund of goodwill for the Palestinian cause everywhere in the world, and that is being manifested in this recognition.

As Dipen Babu has said, I would not like to bring in other issues. There are occasions, there would be appropriate time when all those issues could be discussed in the House. Sir, I again thank the honourable Members.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Now the House will continue the discussion on the problems of the agriculturists. Shri A. G. Kulkarni. I request Honourable Members to be brief.